

Application Serial No.: 09/891,806
Amdt. Dated July 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 7, 2004

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 7, 2004 has been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicants file herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejections to the claims. As a result, Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-20 now stand in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 15, 16, 18 and 19 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,354,304 ("the '304 patent). Claim 2 has been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of the '304 patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. D380,867. Claims 8, 10 and 12-14 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2-5 of the '304 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,860,429. Claim 9 has been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of the '304 patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. D380,867. Finally, Claims 17 and 20 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 5 and 6 of the '304 patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,450,848. The Examiner indicates that the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer may be used to overcome these rejections.

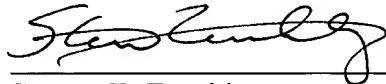
In response, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CRF §1.321(c). The terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the present application that would extend beyond the statutory term defined in U.S. Patent No. 6,354,304 has been disclaimed. It is accordingly requested that the double patenting rejections with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,354,304 be withdrawn.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that a certified copy of the priority document has not yet been received. In response, Applicants submit herewith a certified copy of the priority document.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-20 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward allowance, he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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